

VZCZCXRO2016
OO RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHBK #0770 0861051
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 271051Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6537
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 6886
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 9536
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 5550
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 5360
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1483
RUEHCHI/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI PRIORITY 6361
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 5417

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 000770

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/MLS - LAURA SCHEIBE
NSC FOR ELIZABETH PHU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/27/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [ETRD](#) [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [BM](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: THAILAND RESPONSE TO TRIPARTITE CORE GROUP MANDATE
CONCERNS, MFA DELTA VISIT

REF: SECSTATE 27325

Classified By: Political Counselor George P. Kent, reasons: 1.4 (b) and
(d).

TCG Mandate Concerns

11. (C) We engaged both the MFA ASEAN Department and Burma desk on reftel's concerns about the Burmese junta possibly curtailing the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) mandate in Burma separately March 24 and 27. The Thai MFA interlocutors said they were unaware of any possible weakening of the TCG but promised to work through their Embassy in Rangoon to seek clarifications, since they agreed on the value the TCG played as a positive mechanism for cooperation and window for the Burmese junta to engage the international community.

12. (C) ASEAN Affairs Deputy Director General Manasvi Srisodapol added that the MFA's strategic thinking on Burma was formed by PermSec Virasak Futrakul. He noted that the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force, under the leadership of ASEAN SecGen Surin, also played a useful role. Burma desk officer Jirusaya Birananda, who accompanied FM Kasit as notetaker on his March 22-23 visit to Burma, told us separately that the RTG continued to advocate expanding the mandate of the TCG beyond its agreed-upon areas.

Thai Visit, Assistance to the Delta

13. (C) In reviewing the progress of post-Nargis assistance in the Irrawaddy Delta region, Jirusaya noted that Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya's wife and daughter, along with MFA and Thai Embassy staffers, visited the Delta area during the Kasit's March 22-23 to visit a Buddhist temple and pagoda that had been reconstructed with two million Baht (approximately \$57,000) in Thai contributions. Thai Red Cross and Royal Thai Army assistance projects were also progressing well, without problems.

14. (C) Burmese PM Thein Sein had told FM Kasit in their March 23 meeting that the GOB was building 12 shelters and appreciated Thai assistance in the construction of one of those shelters, Jirusaya said. Thein Sein also told Kasit that the GOB planned to build five roads into the Delta region

helping to alleviate the need for air deliveries of humanitarian support and asked for Thai help in constructing one of the roads. Jirusaya commented that, given current economic problems and budgetary constraints, such a project was likely beyond the Thai capacity at this point.

JOHN